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April 28, 1959

MEMORANDUM OF CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT  
April 27, 1959

Others present: Secretary Herter, Secretary Dillon  
General Goodpaster



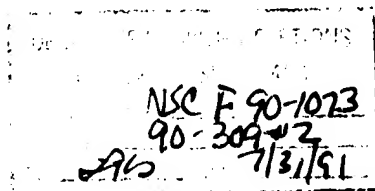
Mr. Herter first showed the President a draft reply to Khrushchev's letter on nuclear testing. The President said he continued to think it was unwise to use a precise figure like fifty kilometers to define the limit of atmospheric testing, and would prefer general language, for example "up to any agreed-upon height" at which a detectable amount of fissionable material is introduced into the atmosphere. He also asked that the letter be cast in terms of asking Khrushchev's reconsideration of the proposal, rather than a plea to him to accept it. Secretary Herter said he would like to send the draft to the British, and the President approved. Mr. Herter added that Selwyn Lloyd had made a good statement regarding nuclear testing in Parliament earlier the same day.

The President and Mr. Herter then edited a text of a public statement commenting on Mr. Khrushchev's reply. This was then given to Mr. Hagerty who released it to the press.

Mr. Herter handed the President a memorandum recommending that Mr. Murphy be designated as the State Department member of the OCB and Chairman. The President indicated agreement.

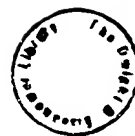
As to the top personnel changes in the State Department, Mr. Herter said he would send them over on Wednesday, together with related legislative changes that are needed. Prior to that time the State Department will have discussed the whole matter thoroughly with members of Congress.

Mr. Herter next gave the President a memorandum proposing the terms of reference for a general review of our disarmament policy. He said these had been agreed upon with Defense. The President



gave the paper to me and asked that it be carefully studied.

Mr. Herter then told the President of plans for a UNESCO meeting to be held September 29th in Denver, devoting itself to Latin American cultural affairs. The State Department had had the idea of the President inviting President Lopez Mateos of Mexico to join him in Denver for this occasion. The President reserved decision on this suggestion until his plans had taken a little clearer shape. At his request I handed to Mr. Stephens a memorandum on the matter which Mr. Herter had given to the President.



Mr. Herter then brought up for consideration some of the problems that will arise in the Foreign Ministers discussions in Paris. One of these is a question

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The President recalled that he had previously stated he saw no reason to have IRBMs east of the Rhine.

..... The President suggested that we simply listen to what they have to say.


One point on which he wishes to reach agreement with the UK, French, and Germans, Mr. Herter indicated, is that we would not agree to a summit meeting unless the Soviets make a statement that they will not take unilateral action regarding Germany. Otherwise, we would find ourselves in the position of attending a summit meeting with this type of threat hanging over our heads. The President said he is not too troubled about this. If, prior to or during the summit meeting, they were to take such action, that would be the end of the summit meeting, in his opinion. He thought we should simply say that we assume that the status quo will be maintained (at least the status quo insofar as any interference with our access to Berlin is concerned). The President said that Khrushchev had apparently told Macmillan that if no progress is made at a Foreign Ministers meeting, or if the situation worsens, that is all the more reason to have a summit meeting. The President said he disagrees with this insofar as his own attendance is concerned. The President ended by saying he

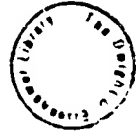
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did not really think that this should be an item on the agenda.

In closing the meeting, he wished the Secretary of State a successful journey.

  
A. J. Goodpaster  
Brigadier General, USA



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